

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

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INFO DA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI

SUBJ: VISIT OF US ARMY OFFICERS TO ALGERIA

REFS: DA WASHDC P072101Z FEB 75; USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
GERMANY P101451Z FEB 75; STATE 032940 (NOTAL)

1. APPRECIATE EXPLANATION REFTEL. PROBLEM FOR US IS THAT ALGERIANS WILL NOT BELIEVE OUR MOTIVES INNOCENT. THEY WILL BE HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS OF US MILITARY PERSONNEL IN ORAN TALKING TO AMERICAN NATIONAL WHO INVOLVED IN ALGERIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT EFFORT AND WHO IN POSITION GIVE THEM INFORMATION OF POTENTIAL INTELLIGENCE VALUE. FACT THAT TEAM MEMBERS MILITARY WILL BE CLEAR FROM PASSPORTS, VISA APPLICATIONS AND IMMIGRATION ENTRY CARDS, EVEN THOUGH THEY NOT IN UNIFORM.

2. WE CONCERNED NOT ONLY THAT TEAM MEMBERS COULD GET SELVES (AND US) INTO TROUBLE, BUT THAT AMERICAN TO WHOM THEY TALK, AND HIS COMPANY, WILL ALSO GET INTO TROUBLE. WE HAVE HAD RECENT INDICATION OF ALGERIAN SENSITIVITY ABOUT AMERICANS WORKING HERE TALKING TO US ABOUT DETAILS OF CONTRACTS AND AWARDS. WE ARE WAITING NOW TO FIND OUT WHETHER ONE SUCH INDIVIDUAL IS TO BE DEPORTED BECAUSE
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OF INNOCENT REMARKS HE MADE TO AN AMERICAN OFFICIAL

HERE, AND WE WOULD NOT LIKE HAVE ANOTHER CASE OF THAT NATURE ON OUR HANDS.

3. IN THEORY WE COULD ASK GOA FOR CLEARANCE FOR TEAM TO COME IN, BUT WE KNOW IN ADVANCE THAT WHILE CLEARANCE WOULD NOT BE REFUSED, IT WOULD NEVER BE GRANTED. REQUEST WOULD SIT FOREVER IN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. ALGERIANS SIMPLY DO NOT LIKE ANY FOREIGN MILITARY MOVING AROUND THIS COUNTRY.

4. SUGGEST WE TRY ALTERNATIVE OF HAVING OUR CONSUL IN ORAN TAKE DEPOSITION FROM SAWYER IN LINE HIS ROLE AS OFFICIAL USG REPRESENTATIVE AND HIS STATUTORY DUTIES. THERE IS WELL-ESTABLISHED AND TIME-HONORED CONSULAR PROCEDURE IN THIS REGARD.

5. ALTERNATIVELY, SUGGEST TEAM MEET SAWYER AT MALLORCA OR MADRID, OR SOME OTHER NEAR LOCATION OUTSIDE ALGERIA. WE WILL BE HAPPY GET IN TOUCH WITH SAWYER AND TRY ARRANGE SUCH MEETING. ARRANGING EXIT PERMIT FOR HIM MAY BE TIME-CONSUMING, HOWEVER, AND ORIGINAL MCMURDO-HESS ITINERARY COULD NOT BE MAINTAINED IN ANY CASE.PARKER

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